

Funding comes through for Carpentersville road improvement project

By **Erin Sauder**

Elgin Courier-News

FEBRUARY 9, 2017, 5:44 PM

Carpentersville's portion of the nearly \$14 million [Huntley](#) Road/Route 31 improvement project has been whittled down to less than 20 percent thanks to various grants and funding commitments.

"So that's pretty good for the village," Village Engineer Ed Szydlowski said while giving an update on the project at Tuesday's Village Board meeting.

"Pretty good? That's phenomenal," said Trustee Paul Humpfer.

The \$13.9 million project, originally proposed in 2006, consisted of intersection improvements and upgraded signals, according to a news release from the village. In May 2010, the scope of work was revised to include intersection improvements at Main Street and Lincoln Avenue. The improvements also extend west to Elm Avenue. A separate project in conjunction with West Dundee extends from Elm Avenue to Sleepy Hollow Road.

A 2011 traffic study conducted by a consulting engineer found that the intersection failed in both condition and functioning level of service during peak periods.

The study estimated that the intersection's ability to move traffic effectively will continue to decrease over the next 20 years, as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning has projected traffic growth of 21 percent by 2030, officials said.

"The goal of these intersection improvements is to provide reduced travel times, mitigate the high accident rates, reduce air pollution from traffic congestion and increase the level of service to those driving on our streets," Village President Ed Ritter said.

The project will entail adding dual left-turn lanes for northbound and southbound Route 31 (Western Avenue) and a northbound right-turn lane; the widening of 700 feet of Spruce Drive along Route 31; widening of Huntley Road going eastbound to provide dual right-turn lanes, a single left-turn lane, and two dedicated through lanes; and widening of Main Street going westbound to provide dual left-turn lanes.

For the Main Street-Lincoln Avenue intersection, improvements will include the addition of left-turn lanes on all legs and an eastbound right-turn lane from Main Street onto Lincoln Avenue.

Additionally, officials said, much-needed underground infrastructure improvements, including the rehabilitation of storm sewer and sanitary sewers, will be made.

The 1.06-mile improvement project is expected to begin this fall and be completed by spring 2019.

To date, the village has been able to secure \$5.9 million in grants from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, \$4.2 million in grants through the Kane/Kendall Councils of Mayors' Surface Transportation Program, and \$1.4 million in proportionate share funds from the [Illinois Department of Transportation](#) for their portion of the right of way.

Carpentersville will fund 100 percent of new water main and sanitary sewer costs as those improvements are not eligible for the grant funds, Szydlowski said.

"In the beginning, our contributions from other sources were \$6.25 million. To date we're at \$11.5 million. The village's portion, all said and done, is going to be about \$1.95 million, so that's about 17 percent," he told board members.

Ritter said the Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors was instrumental in finding funding for the project.

"They, along with IDOT, have both raised their financial contributions twice because the costs have escalated, thus keeping Carpentersville's share as small as possible," he said.

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